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Love Puts Spy Out in the Cold

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The price of true love comes high in the CIA.

It cost a CIA station chief in Hong Kong his job.

The end of the station chief's career began when Adm. Stansfield Turner, director of the CIA, received a surprise package last spring from the man's wife.

The presents were pictures and reports produced by a Chinese private detective she hired to document the romance of the station chief and his Chinese girlfriend.

Even the straitlaced Turner wouldn't normally care much about the outside activities of one of his top people.

But, unfortunately for the station chief, the private detective's report showed the locations of dozens of safehouses and other top secret CIA installations. Instead of paying for hotel rooms, CIA sources say, the station chief was using secret government facilities for his trysts.

The private eye and the station chief's wife were reportedly both very pleased with the detective's work. He thought he had put together a foolproof divorce case, she thought she had the goods to end her two-timing husband's career.

They were both right.

In May, after checking out the report using less amorous field agents, Turner fired the station

chief—with cause. This means, according to CIA sources, the station chief gets no pension or severance pay. The CIA is exempt from civil service regulations.

To make matters worse for the CIA, the detective decided to turn a copy of his report over to Hong Kong police. Hong Kong police, run by the British, then sent a copy of the report to the Special Branch—the British equivalent of the CIA.

"With his indiscretions and her scheming, we now have the entire Hong Kong operation compromised," one source in the CIA's Far East division told the Evening Journal.

"We ought to hire that detective

to replace him. At least, he knows the operation now," the source added.

Jack Coakley, an official with the Washington-based Retired Intelligence Officers Association, said in a telephone interview: "We had heard he was fired. We also heard the circumstances were unusual . . . but people at the agency are keeping quiet about this one."

Susan Black, a CIA spokeswoman, called the story "ridiculous." When asked if that meant it wasn't true, she said, "I just can't say any more about this. That is all I have been instructed to say."

Her boss, public information officer Herbert E. Hetu said "ridiculous" was a word "Susan used in confusion." Hetu, however, refused further comment on the Hong Kong story.

A call to the U.S. Consulate in Hong Kong revealed that the station chief is still in the crown colony, has no telephone and has been coming by to say hello on a weekly basis since his firing in May.

An old friend of the former station chief says, "His wife is settling back here. He has gone into business in Hong Kong with a shady Chinese guy who can't get a visa to visit the states."

Coakley and other CIA sources say Turner has another love nest case to resolve. The story, making the rounds of the CIA, is that a high ranking official in the Bonn office decided to use a West German safehouse for his affair with an airline stewardess.

All was going well until the official wrote a tough fitness report on a subordinate.

The angry subordinate decided to apply some of his CIA-acquired talents.

Before his superior's next assignment, he wired the safehouse bedroom and made a movie—with sound—of his boss' performance that night. Then he sent it to Turner for a sneak preview.

According to one CIA staffer, the note accompanying the package said: "I may have received a poor fitness report, but I am not certain I want to work for an agency that has senior officers of this moral caliber."

Said one former CIA official: "They ought to hold onto that boy—he's the kind of officer they need."